

# **The Third Age Trust**

The Trust is the national support and advisory body for U3A in the UK. Set up in 1982, it is both a Registered Charity and a Limited Company. Individuals U3As form the membership of the Trust and it is directed by the volunteer National Executive Committee (NEC). The National Office, in London, employs paid full- and part-time staff to provide services to the members.

The relationship between individual U3As and the Trust is **NOT** a “head office” and branch relationship. Each U3A is operationally independent, i.e. it is free to run its activities as their committee decides, provided they adhere to the principles of U3A and their own constitution.

The costs of running the Trust are primarily met by a membership fee per head by each U3A. Selling of U3A merchandise is also a growing source of income and the Trust set up a separate company, Third Age Trust Trading Limited, in March 2019 to manage this.

The national website is at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/>

## **The National Executive Committee (NEC)**

The NEC is the Board of Directors for the Trust and meets every 2 months with Sam Mauger, the Chief Executive Officer, in attendance. The Board of Directors is made up of volunteer U3A members and consists of :

- 12 Regional Trustees from Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and 9 English regions, elected by U3As in their region.
- 3 officers (Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Treasurer) elected by all U3As across the country.

The NEC is responsible for good governance, driving strategy and engendering innovation.

## **N.I. Regional Trustee and Trust Volunteers**

Regional Trustees are elected by U3As in their region for a term of 3 years, with the option to extend to a maximum of 5 years. The Regional Trustee’s primary responsibility is as a Director of the Third Age Trust. In addition, they represent the interest of their Region on the NEC and communicate NEC decisions and policies back to the region.

The Northern Ireland Trustee is Valerie Cobain from Holywood U3A, elected in August 2019 to replace Rose Marie Bradley from U3A Foyle, who stepped down after serving for 4 years.

Regional Trustees are assisted locally by a number of trained Trust Volunteers. There are three Trust Volunteers in Northern Ireland – Deirdre Kenny, Mavis Turner (Belfast U3A) and Stuart Pollard (Causeway U3A).

The regional website is at <https://u3ani.info/>



NEC meeting minutes are published on the national website



The NI Trustee  
Valerie Cobain

## Trust Services to Members

The Trust offers a wide range of services and events to U3As:

- Insurance and licensing
- Resource Centre
- Advice sheets and policy guidance
- Training and workshops
- Organised events, such as the annual AGM and Conference, study days, summer schools, etc.
- Beacon membership management system
- Site builder website programme

It also publishes two free magazines, the general magazine Third Age Matters, posted to members (postage charge applies) and the activity themed Sources magazine published on the national website.

An extensive list of volunteer National Subject Advisors is published on the national website and in Third Age Matters. They can provide assistance with start-up of new activity groups or advise existing groups.

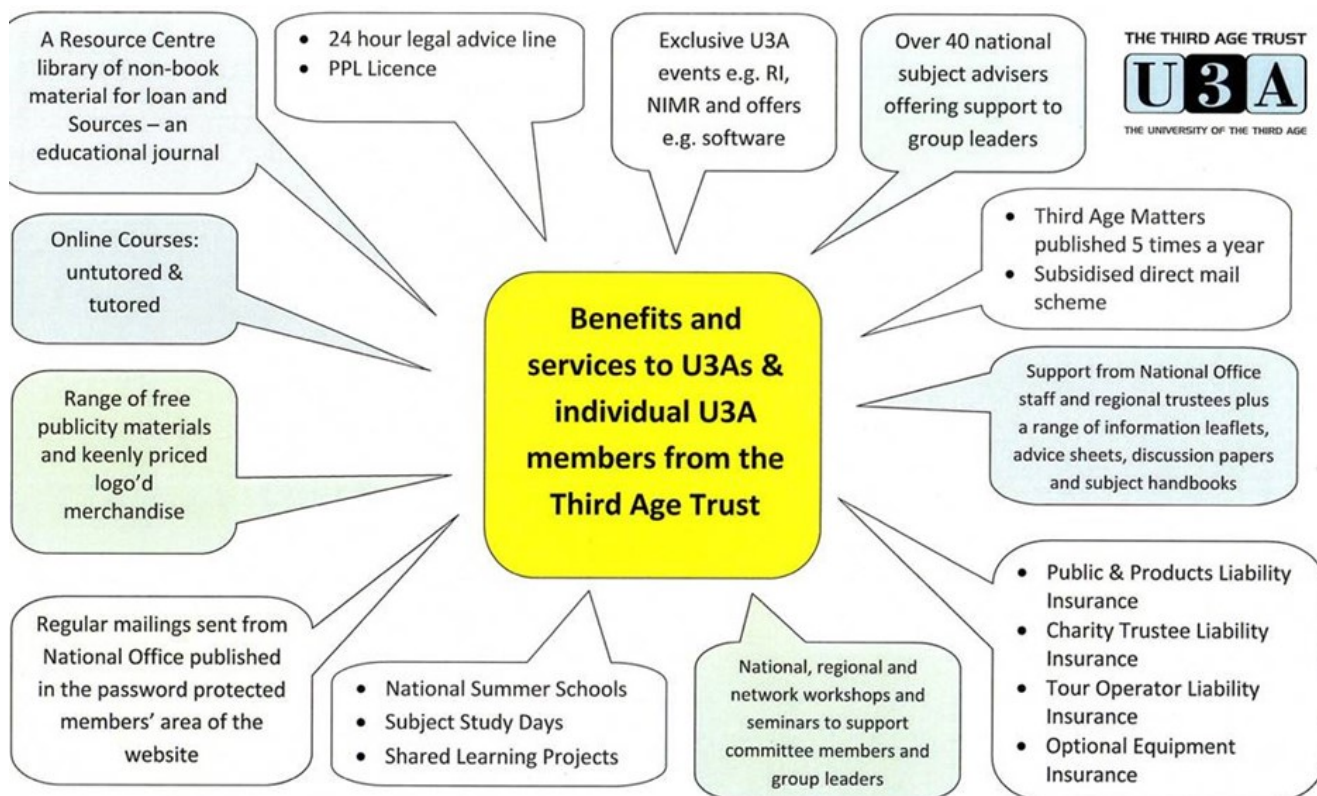
## Learning not Lonely Report

The Third Age Trust published this research report in 2018. They undertook a literature review to identify the impact of life-long learning an, in particular, the impact of informal lifelong learning on participants. The findings were tested in a questionnaire and then probed for qualitative findings in a series of focus groups across the UK.

The conclusions showed the value of the low cost learning in the U3A model to both individual members and society as a whole.

The full report can be downloaded from

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/images/misc/impactreport/impact-report-2018-06-1.2-final-web.pdf>



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON ANY OF THE ABOVE PLEASE CONTACT THE NATIONAL OFFICE ON 020 8466 6139

OR VISIT THE NATIONAL WEBSITE AT [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk)